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No. 10

## Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable JEANNE SHAHEEN, a Senator from the State of New Hampshire.

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, the Author and Giver of all good things, nourish our Senators with Your goodness that they may produce the fruits of exemplary works that honor Your Name. Lead them by their setbacks and victories into a deeper knowledge of Your plans and purposes for this land we love. Give them light for their darkness and strength for every aspiration that seeks to glorify Your Name. May the knowledge of Your redeeming providence be a lamp illuminating the way ahead. Lord, strengthen them by Your spirit, using them as channels for Your coming kingdom. Make them positive people who are expectant of Your best for our Nation and world.

We pray in Your powerful Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable JEANNE SHAHEEN led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,  
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,  
Washington, DC, January 26, 2010.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby

appoint the Honorable JEANNE SHAHEEN, a Senator from the State of New Hampshire, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,  
President pro tempore.

Mrs. SHAHEEN thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

### SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Madam President, following leader remarks, the Senate will resume consideration of H.J. Res. 45, a joint resolution increasing the statutory limit on the debt. The time until 11:30 a.m. will be equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees. At 11:30 a.m., the Senate will proceed to a series of two roll-call votes. Those votes will be in relation to the Baucus amendment No. 3300 regarding a Social Security exemption, to be followed by a vote on the Conrad amendment No. 3302 regarding a fiscal task force. The Senate will recess from 12:30 p.m. to 2:15 p.m. today for the weekly caucus luncheons.

We are operating under an agreement that limits amendments to the debt limit resolution, and only a few amendments remain in order. I encourage Senators with amendments on the list to come to the floor to offer their amendments if they would like their amendments to be considered.

### ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Madam President, with respect to the time under my control for debate with respect to the Baucus and Conrad amendments to H.J. Res. 45, I ask unanimous consent that the time be provided to Senators BAUCUS and CONRAD and that they equally divide and control this time that was under my designation.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

### IRAN SANCTIONS ACT

Mr. REID. Madam President, at the end of last December, I made a commitment to bring S. 2799, the Comprehensive Iran Sanctions Accountability and Divestment Act, to the Senate floor. This critical legislation would impose new sanctions on Iran's refined petroleum sector and tighten existing U.N. sanctions. The act will create pressure on the Iranian regime and help stop Iran from acquiring a nuclear weapon. I thank Senator DODD, Senator KERRY, and many other Senators for their hard work.

I have had conversations with the distinguished Republican leader. We are committed to finding a time to do this legislation. This is going to be a piece of legislation dealing with just this narrow issue. We cannot get into foreign aid and all those other things. I am reaching out to my Republican colleagues to help me find a path to get that done in the next few weeks. We started this session by working on important legislation to prevent the Federal Government from defaulting on its obligations, including my amendment to put in place strict statutory requirements that will ensure the cost of any new spending or tax cuts will not increase our deficit. But everyone should know that I am looking forward to moving on the Iran Sanctions Act, as I have indicated, but we are going to need some cooperation to get this legislation done. I had a conversation with the Republican leader yesterday, and it is our goal to finish the legislation on the debt limit quickly. Hopefully, we can do that and maybe the Bernanke nomination by Thursday or Friday.

The Republicans have scheduled a retreat. We are going to have one next week. When this was scheduled, no one

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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S209